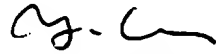


## VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

Japanese Patent Application Number: 2000-222457

I, Yoichi Oshima, of 19-9 Nakahara 1-chome, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo, Japan, am the translator of the documents attached hereto and I state that the following is a true translation of the above-indicated application to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of translator:



By: Yoichi Oshima

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[List of Attached Documents]		
[Document]	Specification	1
[Document]	Drawing	1
[Document]	Abstract of Disclosure	1
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[Proofing Copy]	Needed	

[Document] SPECIFICATION

[Title of the Invention] SNOWBOARD

[Scope of Claim]

[Claim 1] A snowboard, comprising:

an elongated slide board for sliding over snow;

an elongated step board attached to an upper surface of the slide board in a substantially parallel and spaced relationship for a snowboarder to step thereon; and

a connecting member connecting the slide board and step board to each other at a longitudinally middle part thereof.

[Claim 2] A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the step board is longer and wider than the slide board.

[Claim 3] A snowboard according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the step board is provided with an engagement member for detachably and temporarily engaging a toe portion of a shoe worn by the snowboarder in a longitudinally end portion thereof.

[Claim 4] A snowboard according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a binding for attaching a shoe of the snowboarder is detachably mounted to the step board.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Utility]

The present invention relates to a snowboard for sliding over snow, and in particular to a snowboard which allows the snowboarder to enjoy the actions which have been available only with a skateboard but have been considered impossible with a snowboard.

[0002]

[Prior Art]

The conventional snowboard comprises a slide board adapted to slide over snow, and a binding arrangement provided on the deck or the top surface thereof. The snowboarder attaches his or her snow boots to the top surface of the snowboard by using the binding arrangement, and slides down a snow slope on top of the snowboard while making turns by shifting his or her weight and controlling the edges of the snowboard.

[0003]

However, according to the conventional snowboard, because the snowboarder's boots are fixedly secured to the top surface of the snowboard, the snowboarder is unable to move on the snowboard, and can therefore shift his or her weight only by using his or her entire body. This mode of shifting the gravitational center is by no means easy, and this puts a severe strain on the snowboarder's body.

[0004]

Also, many of the tricks employed in skateboarding, such as ollie, shove-it and various flips, are not possible with the conventional snowboard as such tricks require to kick the upper surface of the slide board to lift the slide board and snowboarder in the air.

[0005]

The present invention eliminates such problems of the prior art, and provides a novel snowboard which allows the gravitational center to be shifted easily, and enables many of the attractive tricks of a skateboard to be executed on the snow.

[0006]

[Means to Achieve the Task]

To accomplish this goal, the present invention provides a snowboard, comprising: an elongated slide board for sliding over snow; an elongated step board

attached to an upper surface of the slide board in a substantially parallel and spaced relationship for a snowboarder to step thereon; and a connecting member connecting the slide board and step board to each other at a longitudinally middle part thereof.

[0007]

According to this snowboard, the shifting of the gravitational center can be effected with ease simply by moving the position of the snowboarder on the step board so that the snowboarder can ride snowboard without restraining his or her body as compared to riding a conventional snowboard which requires the gravitational center to be shifted with his or her feet fixed in position.

[0008]

By kicking the snowboard and jumping on the snowboard while thus freely shifting the gravitational center in this manner, the many of the tricks of the skateboard such as ollie, shove-it and various flips, can be executed, and the snowboarder can enjoy various attractive actions.

[0009]

The step board of this snowboard may be longer and wider than the slide board.

[0010]

According to such a snowboard, the shifting of the gravitational center on the step board is effectively transmitted to the slide board so that the control over the slide board is both facilitated and enhanced.

[0011]

The step board may be provided with an engagement member for detachably and temporarily engaging a toe portion of a shoe worn by the snowboarder in a longitudinally end portion thereof.

[0012]

Thereby, when performing a trick known for a skateboard, the snowboard can be easily flipped by temporarily engaging the engagement member with a toe of the snow boot.

[0013]

In this snowboard, a binding for attaching a shoe of the snowboarder may be detachably mounted to the step board.

[0014]

According to this snowboard, it is possible to make the learner gradually familiarize with the snowboard by steps, firstly by making him get the feel of the snowboard by fixing the both feet with the binding, secondly by letting one of the feet go free while securing the remaining foot with the binding, and thirdly by letting both the feet go free. The last stage is the intended normal state, and the learner can also start from the second stage.

[0015]

The position of the binding is not necessarily fixed in position, but may be pivotally attached the step board either at a toe or heel end thereof so that the other end may be rotatable relative to the pivotally attached end. Additionally or alternatively, the binding may be made slidable longitudinally or laterally within a prescribed range.

[0016]

[Embodiment]

Now the present invention is described in the following in more detail in terms of a concrete embodiment with reference to the appended drawings. Figure 1 is a perspective view of the snowboard, Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of the same, Figure 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same, and figure 4 is a cross

sectional view of the same.

[0017]

The snowboard 1 has a two-tier structure and comprises a lower slide board 2 and an upper step board 3 which are integrally joined by coupling members. The coupling members may consist of any known coupling means. In the illustrated embodiment, four tubular members 4 serving also as spacers are interposed between the slide board 2 and step board 3. A threaded bolt 6 is passed downward through a hole 5 formed in the step board 3 and the inner bore of each of the tubular members 4, and threaded into a nut 7 fixedly embedded in the slide board 2.

[0018]

The slide board 2 has a nose 8 and a tail 9 in the fore-and-aft ends which are curved upward, and an intermediate part defining side edges 11 and a sliding surface 10 on a lower surface thereof. The slide board 2 is made of molded plastic.

[0019]

The step board 3 may be similar to the slide board 2 in construction except for the absence of the side edges 11, and comprises a nose 12, a tail 13 and an intermediate part defining a deck 15 on an upper surface thereof that supports the two feet 14 of the snowboarder typically wearing boots or the like. The nose 12 may be fitted with engagement members 16.

[0020]

The engagement members 16 are adapted to receive the snowboarder's toe to allow the snowboarder to hook the snowboard while making a jump or making a turn. Depending on which of the feet of the snowboarder is dominant, only one such engagement member may be provided on the corresponding side of the nose 12. If desired, the engagement members 16 may be suitably adapted to be readily detachable.

[0021]

The slide board 2 and the step board 3 may come in any sizes. However, to improve the functionality and handling, preferably, the length and width of the step board 3 are somewhat greater than those of the slide board 2. The length and the width of the step board are normally smaller than those of the conventional snowboard.

[0022]

According to a typical construction of the snowboard of the present invention, the slide board 2 is 80 cm long and 10 cm wide, and the step board 3 is 2 to 3 cm longer and 10 cm wider. The distance between the slide board 2 and step board 3 is approximately 15 cm. Therefore, the step board 3 is somewhat shorter and narrower than the conventional snowboard which is typically 140 to 150 cm long and approximately 25 cm wide.

[0023]

The four connecting tubular members 4 form the connecting members between the slide board 2 and step board 3 in cooperation with the threaded bolts 6 and nuts 7, and are typically provided inward of the areas 14 where the boots of the snowboarder are placed. The tubular members 4 are typically made of hard plastic material or metallic material which is free from rusting.

[0024]

The deck 15 of the step board 3 is normally not provided with any boot bindings, but may also be provided with bindings particularly for a beginner to get quickly accustomed to the snowboard of the present invention.

[0025]

In such a case, a pair of bindings may be provided on the step board 3 for the right and left boots of the snowboarder. Only the foot on the nose end 12 may be fixedly



retained while the foot on the tail end 13 is allowed to move freely. Alternatively, the bindings may be allowed to move within a prescribed range.

[0026]

When riding the snowboard of the present invention, the snowboarder puts the snowboard 1 on a snow slope and places both his boots on the step board 3 in a somewhat oblique orientation. The snowboarder then can slide down the slope with the nose first while shifting his or her weight appropriately by changing the positions of the feet according to the condition of the snow surface.

[0027]

Referring to Figures 3 and 4 (which are somewhat exaggerated to better illustrate the mode of operation), shifting of the weight while sliding can be effected by shifting the gravitation center W1 either towards the nose end 12 or toward the tail end 13 so as to raise the other end, and by shifting the gravitation center W2 either rightward or leftward so as to raise the other side.

[0028]

Thus, when changing the direction on a slope, it can be easily effected by shifting the gravitational center W2 either rightward or leftward on the deck 15, and taking advantage of the action of the side edges 11. At such a time, it is not necessary to tilt the entire body of the snowboarder to shift the gravitational center as opposed to the case of riding a conventional snowboard so that the snowboarder is free from any undesirable strains.

[0029]

Various tricks of skateboarding, such as ollie, shove-it and various flips, can be effected by kicking the nose 12 or tail 13 of the step board, shifting the gravitational center, making a jump and kicking up the snowboard 1 much in the same way as in

skateboarding, and spectacular tricks which have not been possible with the conventional snowboard can be made possible.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Figure 1]

A perspective view of a snowboard embodying the present invention.

[Figure 2]

An exploded perspective view of the snowboard.

[Figure 3]

A sectional view taken longitudinally across the snowboard.

[Figure 4]

A sectional view taken laterally across the snowboard.

[List of the Numerals]

- |    |                             |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1  | snowboard                   |
| 2  | slide board                 |
| 3  | step board                  |
| 4  | tubular member              |
| 5  | hole                        |
| 6  | threaded bolt               |
| 7  | nut                         |
| 8  | nose (of the slide board 2) |
| 9  | tail (of the slide board 2) |
| 10 | sliding surface             |
| 11 | side edge                   |
| 12 | nose (of the step board 3)  |
| 13 | tail (of the step board 3)  |

14 foot

15 deck

[Document] ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[Abstract of the Disclosure]

[Object] To a snowboard which allows the gravitational center to be shifted easily, and enables many of the attractive tricks of a skateboard to be executed on the snow.

[Structure] The snowboard comprises an elongated slide board 2 for sliding over snow, an elongated step board 3 attached to an upper surface of the slide board 2 in a substantially parallel and spaced relationship for a snowboarder to step thereon, and a connecting member 4 connecting the slide board 2 and step board 3 to each other at a longitudinally middle part thereof.

[Designated Drawing]

Figure 2